

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 738

House of Representatives, March 22, 1911.

On motion of Mr. Hodgkins of Damariscotta, tabled for printing and 1000 copies ordered. On motion of Mr. Peters of Ellsworth, bill ordered printed.

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

To the Seventy-fifth Legislature of the State of Maine:

The Committee on Insane Hospitals have the honor to submit the following report:

Our examination was restricted to ascertaining the cost of the several classifications of expenditures during the year 1910 and the making of a detailed list of the items comprising those expenditures; this information was used as the basis of our decision as to the proper amounts that should be appropriated by the State for the use of the Hospitals for the years 1911 and 1912.

We recommend to the Trustees of the Hospitals that in their future estimates of appropriation requirements, they have specified therein, not only the total amount required, but the separate classes of expenses needing to be provided for, and set opposite them the sums believed to be necessary in each case and also the amounts expended for corresponding purposes during the two preceding years. Such a form of estimate of appropriation requirements, submitted to the Committee on Insane Hospitals at the commencement of each legislative session, would greatly facilitate prompt and early action thereon, and also save the expense of securing independently this necessary information.

We recommend that the Trustees' annual report contain a

comparison statement of financial operations and conditions of the Hospitals of the year reported, with the next preceding year, in order that increases and decreases of operating costs may be readily seen.

We further recommend that an appraisal of the Hospitals' real and personal property be taken, and the value thus determined be entered on the Hospitals' books. A complete balance sheet could then be made, which would show the value of this property of the State, and enable the Trustees and the public to keep better informed regarding the gradual and increasing investment in these institutions.

In the annual reports of the year 1910 there are given tables on page 63 of Maine Insane Hospital report and on page 30 of Eastern Maine Insane Hospital report of appropriations for the year 1909 and 1910, which are not complete because they do not contain the appropriations for maintenance and support of insane state beneficiaries for 1909, from which sum aggregating more than \$128,000 were expended. Complete tables of appropriations for each year for each Hospital should be made, to be of any value for public information.

A discrepancy is to be noted in the reports of the farm and garden products on pages 64 and 65 of report of Maine Insane Hospital and on page 30 of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital report of the year 1910, where the production of farm products of Maine Insane Hospital is given as \$20,732.53 as against the reported income from the farm of said Hospital on page 58 of \$11,236.11, and in the case of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital the farm products are reported as of a value of \$8,376.99 on page 30 of that Hospital's report while the farm income is reported on page 27 as \$4,360.02. We suggest that the total value of these productions should have been credited to the farm accounts and charged to the departments using them, or to whomsoever any part of them were sold. The income of these departments should at least equal their production, or the reason for the difference be satisfactorily explained. With this exception the bookkeeping methods and system appear to be very complete and adequate to the requirements of the institutions. The list of itemized expenditures of the Maine Insane Hospital shows that good business judgment and ability were exercised in using appropriately the money spent and in obtaining full values, with the marked exception of the expenditures covering

the renovation and refurnishing of the Superintendent's rooms. It is very doubtful if it would be generally considered proper to install such luxurious furnishings in a state charitable institution. In fact, a part of this expenditure was refused approval by the State Auditor.

Some of these expenditures were as follows:

Mahogany library table, \$135; mahogany dining table, \$125; mahogany bed, \$115; 12 mahogany dining chairs, \$168; mahogany sideboard, \$175; mahogany serving table, \$68; mahogany bureau, \$125; mahogany chiffonier, \$115; mahogany wing chair, \$82.50; mahogany easy chair, \$79.25; rug for living room, \$121; rug for boudoir, \$114; rug for dining room, \$91; rug for doctor's office, \$80.75; silk draperies for living room, \$176; lace curtains, \$45; velour portieres (boy's room), \$21; lace curtains (boy's room), \$27.50; cretonne draperies (boy's room), \$21; velour portieres (living room), \$39; draperies for doctor's office, \$43.50; draperies, dining room, \$39.50; electrical ceiling piece, dining room, \$40; electrical ceiling piece, living room, \$56.80; electrical bracket, living room, \$44.80; wall paper, 12 rolls at \$4.50 per roll, \$54; 80 rolls at \$3 per roll, \$240; upholstery materials: velour at \$2.50 per yard, \$22.50; 2 hides leather, \$45; silk rep, \$4.50 per yard; rep at \$3.50 per yard; damask at \$5.50 per yard; fringe to match at \$3 per yard; gold plating of candelabra, \$10, etc., etc.

The indirect responsibility for this outlay is with the Trustees who voted to authorize the Superintendent and one of their number to renovate and refurnish the Superintendent's rooms without any limit to the amount to be expended for that purpose.

We suggest to the Trustees that increased economical management might include the discontinuance of the special telephone service costing \$1200 per year, and the reduction of the driving horses equipment to two horses at Augusta, instead of six, and two at Bangor instead of five.

We suggest to the Trustees, that the Superintendent of the Maine Insane Hospital be relieved of the care and responsibility for the Treasurer's and Steward's departments, and thus enable him to devote his whole time and attention to the care and medical treatment of the patients.

The combining of the offices of Treasurer and Steward at

the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital would also be economical. The duties of the two positions could as well be performed by one person at the Bangor Hospital as the same kind of duties are now fulfilled by one person at the Augusta Hospital.

We recommend to the Trustees that a periodical audit of the cash accounts of the Hospitals be made, as that part of their accounts does not come under the examination and control of the State Auditor.

In view of the fact that the condition of the State's income and finances are not such as to permit of prompt payment of appropriation indebtedness, it would be a good business proposition for the Legislature to authorize by law the Trustees of the Hospitals to issue the Hospitals' notes for borrowed money, subject to the approval of the State Auditor, and countersigned by him, in anticipation of appropriation payments by the State Treasurer. The total amount of such notes outstanding to be limited to not exceeding the actual cash amounts due from the State on account of the current year's appropriations, and all notes thus issued to be paid from the appropriation receipts of the year of their issue. The means for prompt cash payments thus placed in the hands of the Trustees would result in the saving of thousands of dollars to the State, through the ability of the Hospitals to take advantage of all cash discounts and through lower cost prices obtainable when purchases are made for cash, instead of on long time credits with their attendant interest charges.

The itemized accounts of the expenses of the Trustees show that extraordinary expenses were incurred in endeavoring to obtain as large appropriations as possible for the use of these institutions. One of their members was authorized by vote of the Trustees to appear before the Seventy-fourth Legislature for that purpose. He devoted fifty-five days to that work at Trustees' compensation or \$5.00 per day and expenses, amounting to a total of \$436.75. This amount included traveling expenses of \$161.75. It was testified to by one of the Trustees before the Committee, that it had been the custom of the Trustees "from time immemorial" to make such personal representations before all previous Legislatures of Hospital requirements. The Committee does not approve of the use of the State's money in this way, as a written statement of the Hospital's require-

ments addressed to the Insane Hospitals Committee ought to be sufficient without personal solicitation of the Trustees at the expense of the State.

We recommend to the Trustees that instead of paying the Treasurer of the Maine Insane Hospital \$200 to \$250 per annum for extra services and charging the same to other than salary account, to have his salary fixed at \$1800 per annum.

We recommend that all funds for use of Insane Hospitals shall remain in the State treasury and that funds received from patients, sale of farm products, and all other income shall be deposited to the account of the Hospitals in the State treasury, and that all bills against the Hospitals should be paid by the State Treasurer after being approved by the State Auditor, as these institutions are State institutions, not private, and should be treated as such. The reason for this is the money in these two institutions amounted to \$39,000.00 on December 1st, 1910, (at times the amount in these institutions is much larger). This money in the State treasury would result in a saving of at least 4% per annum, or the difference between the interest received on it, or 2%, by the institutions and the interest paid by the State, or 6%, on overdue accounts. A further advantage would be that none of this money could be expended without the approval of the State Auditor.

As \$980.92 was all the State Auditor allowed on the expenditure by the Trustees for the renovation and furnishing of the Superintendent's rooms, which amounted to \$5,847.14, (as appears on page 58 of Maine Insane Hospital Report) this expenditure could not have been made under above proposed recommendation that all the Hospitals' funds should be kept in the State treasury.

At present its expenditure is entirely in control of the Trustees.

The Committee makes the following report in regard to appropriations for Insane Hospitals:

Original Request of Augusta Hospital.

1911	\$233,100 00
1912	243,900 00
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	\$477,000 00

Reduced Request Augusta Hospital March 8.

1911	\$216,853 24
1912	218,136 99
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	\$434,990 23

Recommended Appropriation by Committee.

1911	\$192,300 00
1912	192,300 00
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	\$384,600 00

Special Appropriations Requested for Augusta Hospital.

\$65,000 00

10,000 00

\$75,000 00

Total request

\$552,000 00

Appropriation

384,600 00

Difference

\$167,400 00

Original Request of Bangor Hospital.

1911

\$184,000 00

1912

193,000 00

\$377,000 00*Reduced Request Bangor Hospital March 20.*

1911

\$149,580 00

1912

158,030 00

\$307,610 00

Recommended Appropriation by Committee.

1911	\$118,350 00
1912	121,350 00
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	\$239,700 00

Special Appropriations Requested for Bangor Hospital.

\$33,200 00

\$410,200 00

Total request	\$410,200 00
Appropriation	239,700 00
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Difference	\$170,500 00

Total request from both Hospitals for years 1911 and 1912	\$962,200 00
Appropriated for both Hospitals for years 1911 and 1912	624,300 00
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Difference	\$337,900 00

In conclusion we wish to express our appreciation of the courtesies received from the officers and clerks of the Hospitals and of their perfect willingness to assist us in every possible way in making this examination.

Senators:

HENRY M. MOULTON,
R. J. NOYES,
M. O. EDWARDS.

House:

W. G. HODGKINS,
GEO. G. EMERY,
OTIS LITTLEFIELD,
HORACE E. SNOW,
J. D. AMES,
OLIVER OTIS,
A. W. PLUMMER.